

## 4<sup>th</sup> COMBILASER PROJECT PRESS RELEASE

The COMBILASER research project is slowly entering its final stage. Progress made in the second year of activities underpinning the 3-year project has shown that project partners are well on track.

In its second year the **12-member COMBILASER research consortium** held three consortium meetings. The first consortium meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at **Laser Zentrum Hannover**, the second from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at **RECENDT headquarters in Linz, Austria** and the **third** from 29<sup>th</sup> November till 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 at the **University of Sheffield campus**. These three and multiple other intensive meetings were held in order to support the research and development intensive work that had to be coordinated in 2016.



*Pictures: Hannover meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

After the groundwork that was laid in the first – industrial use-case definition and concept design phase – and currently accomplished activities in the second year – finalization of test designs and first implementation assessment tests – **the third year will see intensive validation and project result exploitation activities.**

COMBILASER is a 3-year project that aims to bring beyond state-of-the art solutions. Innovative combination of monitoring and non contact NDT techniques together with the self-learning module is now entering the industrial use case design finalization phase.



One of the **main innovations** of the COMBILASER project – the **self-learning-system** developed by University of Sheffield - is almost **100% completed**. Similarly, some other features have been finalized and also been agreed-upon on their implementation; **different monitoring systems** (spectral monitoring, thermography, melt pool monitoring) and **NDT solutions** (laser ultrasonic systems, laser acoustic detection system, machine vision inspection) have also been developed, **tested and chosen for each one of the three UCs**.



Picture: Linz meeting, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The intensive **system integration of all building blocks** – *SLS, monitoring and NDT* – is expected to be completed in the early first half of 2017. The remainder of 2017 will then be focused on validation of the project solution; first in laboratory conditions under supervision of different R&D partners, and finally at industrial partners' premises.



Pictures: Sheffield meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

The COMBILASER project has **received substantive interest from the photonics community and wider industrial associations in Europe**. In 2016 it has been presented at events such as The Future of Road Mobility Forum at EARPA in Brussels, on the 19<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Non-Destructive Testing in Munich, at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Laser-Ultrasonics and Advanced Sensing in Linz, at the specialized Oil & Gas Conference and the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Industrial Dimensional Metrology – *both in Bilbao, Spain* – and many more.

**Further intensive promotion efforts** by all partner are planned for 2017 – *on both European and respective national levels* – to support the upcoming validation and exploitation phase and ensure that the solutions developed in COMBILASER can be realized to their full potential.



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